



C A L I F O R N I A D E P A R T M E N T O F

Mental Health

1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-3551

April 9, 2004

TO: COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

**SUBJECT: WORKSHOP ON PREVALENCE OF SERIOUS MENTAL DISORDERS
AND DEMONSTRATION OF PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS**

The California Department of Mental Health (DMH) is pleased to announce four regional workshops on Prevalence of Serious Mental Disorders in combination with demonstrations of the new Performance Outcomes Technology Options, beginning May 3, 2004.

The workshops on Prevalence of Serious Mental Disorders will be presented by Chuck McGee of the WICHE mental health program, along with Statistics and Data Analysis management staff from DMH. An overview of various estimation methodologies and an in-depth discussion of the rates for California will be presented. Prevalence rates have served as a proxy for "need" of services and can be used (1) as part of the equation in estimating unmet need, and (2) in penetration rates to indicate access to services and disparities. Estimates are available for each county by gender, age groups, race/ethnicity, and type of residence for youth and adults, and by marital status and education for adults. The prevalence rates will be presented for youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), and adults with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI). The model to predict prevalence was constructed based on epidemiological studies and applied to 2000 Census population data

Dr. Stephanie Oprendek, and Performance Outcomes and Quality Improvement staff from DMH will demonstrate the new Performance Outcomes Technology Options that will be available to counties for the next round of consumer perception survey data collection in the Fall (2004): (1) *web-based, on-line direct data entry* (no cost technology option), and (2) *web-based scanning and verification system* (low cost-to-county technology option). DMH would like to offer counties the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the new technologies so that they can select and procure the necessary equipment in order to implement a technology configuration that is suitable for their needs. This demonstration is designed to provide technical information about the system configuration and what software and hardware counties will need to acquire in order to use the system. DMH is currently working with CMHDA in order to explore options for funding to help offset the initial hardware/software costs to counties for the web-based scanning and verification system. The demonstration is designed to present an overview of the technology options and is not a training on the use of the system. Comprehensive trainings for users will be scheduled once counties have set up their local systems.

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Both the workshop and demonstration are designed for managers, planners, data analysts, and information technology staff who work with prevalence rates, and/or make decisions regarding methods of performance outcome data collection and reporting.

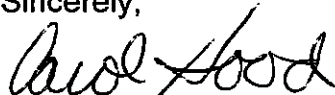
The workshop and demonstration will be offered in four different regions of the state, beginning on Monday, May 3, 2004. Each workshop and demonstration will each take about 3 hours and each will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to noon and then will repeat in the afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (see dates below). This format is being used so that county staff whose responsibilities involve performance outcomes/data analysis and quality improvement/management may attend both the workshop and the demonstration. Alternatively, staff may attend both sessions of the workshop or demonstration to gain greater familiarity with the material.

REGION	DATE	LOCATION
Northern California	May 3 (Monday)	Sacramento
Central Valley	May 4 (Tuesday)	Fresno
Bay Area	May 5 (Wednesday)	Alameda
Southern California	May 6 (Thursday)	Riverside

Space is limited so please RSVP by April 23rd, 2004, by emailing bscott@dmhhq.state.ca.us or by calling (916) 653-6257, with the number of people who will be attending from your county. If possible, please specify whether staff will be attending the workshop, demonstration, or both.

Should you have technical questions related to the Prevalence of Serious Mental Disorders workshop, please contact Kathy Styc, Chief, Statistics and Data Analysis, at (916) 654-6947 or KStyc@dmhhq.state.ca.us. For technical questions related to the Performance Outcomes Technology Options demonstration please contact Stephanie Oprendeck, Ph.D., Chief, Performance Outcomes and Quality Improvement, at (916) 653-3517 or SOprende@dmhhq.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,



CAROL HOOD
Deputy Director

Cc: Members, California Mental Health Planning Council
Members, State Quality Improvement Council
California Mental Health Directors Association